



National C-FAR

National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
Teaming Together For A Better Tomorrow

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December 2001 Newsletter – Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for National C-FAR’s Inaugural Year

As we celebrate the holiday season and wrap up 2001, let’s pause to review our progress in our first year and identify the major challenges for our second.

Thanks to the support of our “Founding” members and the dedication of the members of our board and committees, National C-FAR has had a successful launch. We have created and incorporated a non-profit organization. We have attracted 117 dues-paying major food and agricultural organizations and individuals (see attached listing of “Founding” members) that have a combined membership of over two million. We have testified before both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. We have carried our message of the crucial need to enhance food and agricultural research and education to a dozen major meetings. We have elevated the understanding and support of food and agricultural research and education among our member organizations. We have forged working relationships with other major national organizations. Our Research and Legislative Committees have held regular monthly meetings in Washington with congressional and administrative staff to explore how we can assist them in furthering food and agricultural research and education.

We have become a significant national player in the advocacy for food and agricultural research and education. One tangible indication of our recognition in Washington is that the farm bill reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee and a “dear colleague letter” signed in the House of Representatives specifically adopted our major target of “doubling food and agricultural research over the next 5 years.”

Although we have justifiable pride in the accomplishments of our initial year, which are highlighted below, there were disappointments. Several major challenges remain. While we have raised the visibility and support for enhanced federal funding of food and agricultural research and education, we still must promote it to a higher priority on the national agenda. The major contributions of food and agricultural research to society are still not widely recognized or appreciated. Significant increases in federal appropriations have not yet occurred. Indeed, Congress has rescinded federal funding for one major competitive grants research programs at USDA, the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). There is concern that total federal support of food and agricultural research and education in USDA may actually shrink.

The September 11 tragedy rightfully shifted the nation’s attention and focus. We substituted a board conference call for a board meeting scheduled for Washington and delayed the scheduling of a major agriculture research summit meeting until 2002. The bioterrorism attacks using Anthrax put the public spotlight upon the safety and security of our food supply. Ironically, Anthrax, once known as the “wool sorters disease” because of its incidence among those who handled the wool from infected sheep, is now a “mail sorters disease.” Thanks to much research done in the past by agricultural researchers, there is a substantial base of

information that has helped the early detection and containment of the Anthrax scourge. While we are fortunate that we had a base of knowledge to address the Anthrax attack, it also has become clear that we need to take a fresh look at ways we can safeguard the security of our entire food system - from the farm all the way to the consumers, be they domestic or foreign. The importance of food and agricultural research and education is heightened by these dastardly attacks. While we have the safest food system in the history of the world and while we do not want to alarm consumers, we do need to address the potential vulnerabilities in the food and agricultural system. In the long run, research and education are the solution to insuring the security of our food supply.

To accomplish our mission of enhanced federal support for food and agricultural research and education, we will need to continue to build and strengthen our coalition and become more effective in getting our message across to leaders in the Administration and Congress. Our top priorities for 2002 include:

- Retain the participation and support of our “Founding” members and recruit new members. Several major national food and agricultural organizations are not yet members. We also need to expand our corporate membership and further broaden our membership base to include more conservation, nutrition, industry, and consumer organizations.
- Develop an easily understood and persuasive explanation of the past contributions of food and agricultural research and education and the need and justification for enhanced funding in the future.
- Insure the reauthorization of the major food and agricultural research and education programs in the farm bill Congress is currently debating. We hope that this bill will be passed by early 2002.
- Develop closer working relationships with Congress and the Administration to assure the appropriation of added funds.
- Convene a national forum on “Securing a Safe Food Supply” to articulate the role and benefits of food and agricultural research and education and to identify additional research and education needed in the future to secure and protect the safety of our food supply.

Highlights of 2001

- The inaugural meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on January 31. Over 100 leaders in the food and agriculture industry and federal officials participated. Meeting highlights included an address by Dr. Norman Borlaug, Noble Peace Prize recipient credited with starting the “Green Revolution.”
- The Coalition elected a 15-member board of directors and agreed to use the collective resources of its membership to advocate for an increase in food and agricultural research.
- Coalition leaders met with Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, Congressmen Charles Stenholm (Dem, TX) and Calvin Dooley (Dem, CA), and Senator Richard Lugar (Rep, IN) to discuss the need for increased federal funding to support stakeholder-driven food and agricultural research.
- Legislative Committee met on March 2 with Kevin Mathis, Executive Director, Campaign for Medical Research, who has been successful in getting the policy adopted for “doubling of NIH research.”

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- President Terry Wolf met with the National Agricultural Research, Education and Economics Advisory Board on March 21 and provided an update of National C-FAR's goals and plans.
- Vice President David Graves and other members of the Legislative Committee met with staff members of key agricultural and appropriations committees. Staff members liked the idea of a coalition and were interested in exploring ways National C-FAR could work with congress to build support for food and agriculture research and education.
- Secretary of Agriculture Veneman, in her first public speech on February 22, endorsed our Coalition's strategy by noting, "We must maintain consumer confidence in our food supply by building coalitions that encourage education and research, as well as policies that are based on sound science."
- A memorandum of understanding was reached with the Food & Society Project. This project is funded by the Kellogg Foundation and directed by the university presidents in the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). The Food & Society project has very similar objectives as our coalition and involves several of our members. We keep in close communication to avoid any confusion and capitalize upon any synergies. Dr. Jim Stukel, President of the University of Illinois, serves as a liaison with us.
- Board member Jon Caspers testified to the Senate Ag Committee on March 27.
- Statements developed by the Legislative Committee were submitted to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture.
- A "Dear Colleague" letter, initiated by Congressmen Cal Dooley (Dem, CA) and Chip Pickering (Rep, MS), was signed by 49 U.S. House of Representatives members. The letter emphasized the need for doubling food and agriculture research, extension and education and mentioned National C-FAR's support for doubling federal funding.
- President Terry Wolf spoke to the National Research Council Workshop, "A Vision for USDA's Food and Agricultural Research in the 21st Century" on May 22 and 23.
- A reception to explain National C-FAR to potential members was held on May 22, in Washington, D.C. Over 50 people attended. We were especially honored to have several of the distinguished participants of the National Research Council's Workshop attend the reception. The American Farm Bureau Federation provided the facilities for the reception in their Washington D.C. offices and the American Vintners Association provided the wine.
- President Terry Wolf presented testimony on behalf of National C-FAR in the House of Representatives on June 27.
- Board member Barbara Glenn presented testimony on behalf of National C-FAR in the Senate on June 28. The testimony was well received and several members favorably mentioned the doubling goal.
- The Food & Society Project and National C-FAR formed a Joint Implementation Committee to pursue our common goals. The committee will coordinate a series of stakeholders meetings to build a broad base of political support.
- A website was created (www.ncfar.org) to provide easy access to membership information, minutes of meetings, meeting agendas and schedules, application forms, reference materials and presentations.
- A statement was submitted to the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) listening session held on July 12 in Lancaster, PA.
- National C-FAR, the Food & Society Project and The Ohio State University co-sponsored a meeting with stakeholder groups at The Ohio State University on August 21. About 90 persons from Ohio and 7 Midwest states attended.

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- U.S. House of Representatives on October 5 passed its version of the farm bill -- the 10-year "Farm Security Act of 2001." The bill extends most of the existing agricultural research programs slated to expire in 2002 and increases the mandatory funding of The Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAS) from \$120 million to \$145 million.
- The National C-FAR Research Committee met with Dr. Joe Jen, Under Secretary for Research, Extension, and Economics at USDA, on October 5 to discuss the USDA research programs and priorities and explore ways National C-FAR can cooperate with the USDA. Dr. Jen emphasized that USDA recognizes the crucial role of food and agricultural research and his commitment to a balanced portfolio of research using the full variety of funding mechanisms.
- A reception in recognition of the importance of Agricultural Genomics and Agricultural Research was held on Capitol Hill on September 20. National C-FAR and some 25 other food and agricultural organizations cosponsored the reception. Over 80 persons attended. Senator Bond of Missouri, Congressman Smith of Michigan and Senator Lugar of Indiana gave strong endorsements of the need for added funding of food and agricultural research and education.
- President Terry Wolf provided an update to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board meeting October 30-November 2 in Washington, D.C.
- National C-FAR, the Food & Society Project and Texas A&M cosponsored a Regional Food and Agriculture Research Meeting on October 29 in College Station, Texas. The 60 stakeholders in attendance discussed food and agricultural research and education priorities for the future. Stakeholders expressed their interest in participating in the formulation of food and agricultural research priorities setting. They also stressed the importance of stating the priorities in clear and broad terms that can be readily understood and supported by the public and by congress.
- Initial plans for holding a major national forum, tentatively entitled "Securing a Safe Food Supply -- A National Forum on Food and Agricultural Research and Education" have been formulated and discussed by a National C-FAR planning committee and outlined to top USDA officials on December 17. The plan is to hold a national forum in Washington, D.C. in March or April in conjunction with our second annual meeting. The forum would be attended by current and prospective members of National C-FAR and leaders in government, industry and universities. The purpose is to articulate the role and benefits of food and agricultural research and education and to identify additional research and education needed in the future to secure and protect the safety of our food supply.
- For the 2001 fiscal year that ended June 30, 2001, National C-FAR had revenues of \$164,000 and expenses of \$90,000, leaving a balance of \$74,000 to begin the new 2002 fiscal year. For the new 2002 fiscal year that began July 1, income through November 30 was \$17,000 and expenses were \$29,599. Checks outstanding and unpaid bills are approximately \$12,000, which means the net position of National C-FAR is approximately \$62,000. The checking account balance on November 30 was \$75,871.31. Projections of income and expenses for the rest of the fiscal year indicate about a break-even for FY 2002.

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National C-FAR “Founding” Members

December 21, 2001

National Members

American Crop Protection Association
American Dietetic Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Meat Institute Foundation
American Seed Trade Association
American Society for Nutritional Sciences
American Society of Animal Science
American Soybean Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
American Vintners Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Biotechnology Industry Organization
CARET
CoFARM
CSARE (Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture
Research and Education)
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Forest Landowners Association
Institute of Food Technologists
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain & Feed Association
National Pork Producers Council
Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
USA Rice Federation
U.S. Rice Producers Association
Wildlife Management Institute

University Members

Academic Committee on Organization and Policy (ACOP)
of NASULGC
Association of 1890 Research Directors
Auburn University
Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research
Clemson University
Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station
Cornell University
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOPE)
of NASULGC
Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)
of NASULGC
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
LSU Agricultural Center
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina State University
North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment
Station Directors
North Dakota State University
Northeast Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment
Station Directors
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
South Dakota State University
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment
Station Directors (SAAESD)
Southern Illinois University
Texas A & M University System
University of Arizona

University of Arkansas
University of California, DANR
University of California, Davis
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Idaho
University of Illinois, College of ACES
University of Illinois Extension & Outreach
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri – Columbia
University of Tennessee
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Utah Agricultural Experiment Station
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
(WAAESD)
Wyoming Agriculture Experimental Station

Corporate Members

Gold Kist, Inc.
Land O’ Lakes
Monsanto
Ralston Purina Company
Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.

Affiliate Members

A.J. & Jeanne Harland
Ann Marie Thro
Barry Sackin (American School Food Service Association)
Becky Doyle (Andrews, Doyle & Associates)
Brian M. Hyps (American Society of Plant Physiologists)
Constance Locher-Bussard, R.D.
Deborah T. Hanfman
Delmar K. Banner (Lietz, Banner & Ford)
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
Dr. Bernadette Dunham (American Vet. Medical Assoc.)
Dr. Gale A. Buchanan (University of Georgia)
Dr. Ken Lee (Ohio State University)
Dr. Martin A. Massengale (University of Nebraska)
Dr. Stephanie Smith (Institute of Food Technologists)
Dr. Teresa A. Gruber (CAST)
Dr. Terry Nipp (AESOP Enterprises, Ltd.)
Dr. W. David Shoup (Southern Illinois University)
Farm Foundation
Illinois Corn Marketing Board
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board
Jack Cooper (Food Industry Environmental Network)
John L. Huston
Kellye Eversole (Eversole Associates)
Larry L. Groce (GROCE & Associates)
North American Millers’ Association
Robert Mustell (RAM Associates)
Rod Nilsestuen (Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives)
Seeley G. Lodwick (Green Bay Farms)
Tamara Wagester (C-FARE)
William Danforth (Washington University West Campus)

Honorary Member

Dr. Norman Borlaug

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